

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1261, ENCOURAGING ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCES FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, in 1996, Congress passed the Reclamation Recycling and Water Conservation Act to help western communities conserve precious water supplies by encouraging water reuse. The Act authorized a number of new projects, including a water desalinization project proposed by the city of Long Beach and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The Act limited the federal cost share requirements to 50 percent of total project costs.

At the time of the Act's passage, the projected costs for the Long Beach desalinization project were estimated to be \$27 million. The expectation at the time was that the desalinization project would process roughly 5 million gallons of water each day. Given the limitations in the Act, the federal government's responsibility was limited to \$13.5 million.

Since the original authorization, the project's sponsors have increased the scope of the project. Today, the plans call for processing 40 million gallons of water per day, an eight-fold increase over the original projections. In turn, this has dramatically increased the total project cost, to well over \$100 million.

Private resources have been identified to cover the increase in costs. However, there is concern that the federal cost share provision may be overly broad, imposing responsibility for up to \$50 million on the Federal Bureau of Reclamation.

The legislation that I have introduced today would clarify and emphasize that the contribution of the federal government today is exactly the same as it was five years ago: not more than \$13.5 million. It is, quite simply, a technical correction or clarification of the original authorization. And, in this day of fiscal restraint, is the type of restraining legislation that my colleagues should be eager to support. I look forward to working with my colleagues, particularly those in water-scarce communities, to enact this legislation and, ultimately, to develop alternative water resources.

H.R. 1261 is below:

H.R. 1261

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LIMIT ON FEDERAL COST OF THE LONG BEACH DESALINIZATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

Section 1605(b)(2) of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 390h-3(b)(2)) is amended by striking "50 percent of the total" and inserting "the lesser of 50 percent of the total or \$13,500,000".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall nos. 62, 63 and 64 I was detained to speak to the

"World Sports Clinic" for the Disabled Veterans of America.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea on all three.

STANLEY B. GREENBERG HIGHLIGHTS HAIDER'S CONTINUING RACISM, ANTI-SEMITISM, AND XENOPHOBIC IN AUSTRIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in the last Congress we voted to adopt a resolution which expressed the serious concern of this house for the inclusion of the FPO political party in the government of Austria. At that time, the House expressed "its opposition to the anti-democratic, racist and xenophobic views that have been expressed by Jeorg Haider and other leaders of the FPO, and, because of these publicly expressed views, to state its opposition to the party's participation in the Austrian Government."

It was my hope in introducing that resolution and in bringing about the debate it in this house that the leaders of the FPO and the people of Austria would move away from the racist, anti-Semitic, and xenophobic rhetoric that has so tarnished and tainted the image of Austria. I regret, Mr. Speaker, that our efforts have not had their fully desired effect, but there has been some indication of progress—not with the FPO and its leader Jeorg Haider, but perhaps with the people of Vienna.

In yesterday's issue of *The New York Times*, American pollster and political analyst Stanley B. Greenberg—the husband of our distinguished colleague from Connecticut, ROSA DELAURIO—wrote a particularly insightful piece about his own personal experiences in the last few weeks in Austria. His report indicates that the venomous anti-Semitism, anti-foreign rhetoric continues to pollute the speeches of Jeorg Haider and other leaders of the FPO. At the same time the people of Vienna in last Sunday's mayoral election gave the FPO 8 percent fewer votes than the party received in the previous election. I welcome that trend, but I also wish to note the one fifth—20 percent—of the voters in Vienna, a sophisticated and cosmopolitan city of international reputation, cast their ballots for the FPO and its racist and xenophobic platform.

Mr. Speaker, I submit Stan Greenberg's excellent personal essay from the March 27th issue of *The New York Times* to be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give thoughtful consideration to his excellent article.

[From *The New York Times*, March 27, 2001]

A STRANGE WALTZ IN VIENNA

(By Stanley B. Greenberg)

VIENNA.—I am an American Jew, yet found myself in Vienna under attack by Jörg Haider, one of Europe's more notorious anti-Semitic politicians. I was in Vienna doing what I normally do, conducting polls and providing advice to political leaders and their campaigns—this time for the Social Democratic candidate for mayor, the incumbent, Michael Häupl. I had provided similar services for Bill Clinton and Al Gore, Tony Blair, Nelson Mandela and Ehud Barak. As a rule, I keep to the background, offering my ideas privately and far away from the TV cameras. Vienna was to be different.

Mr. Haider led the Freedom Party to prominence by attacking foreigners and Jews, expressing admiration for some of Hitler's policies and championing some populist ideas of his own. His party got 27.9 percent of the vote here in the local election in 1996.

Speaking before his party convention, Mr. Haider declared, "Häupl has a strategist called Greenberg," eliciting giggles in the room. "He specially flew him in from the East Coast." For Mr. Haider, "East Coast" means New York City and powerful Jews, the people who brought down Austrian president Kurt Waldheim and have tried to extract reparations for the Jewish victims of Nazi aggression. Mr. Haider spoke more about the foreigner, then intoned: "Dear friends, you have the choice on 25 March between spin-doctor Greenberg from the East Coast or the Viennese hearts." This was greeted by massive applause.

I was not alone in the line of fire; Haider had singled out Ariel Muzicant, leader of the Jewish community in Vienna, for derision. He scoffed at his given name, which is also the name of a popular washing powder. And Mr. Haider wondered mockingly how "anyone with such a name can have such dirty hands," economically summoning up the "pollution" fears and class-struggle stereotypes of 1930's anti-Semitism.

Mr. Haider's candidate in Vienna, Helene Partik-Pablé, spoke of foreigners who "won't integrate." "They carry on with their own life-style," she said. "That leads to tensions involving noise, dirt and so on." She further declared, "We need to introduce zero immigration."

My first reaction was a certain pride in being attacked by Mr. Haider. But that was bravado, on the whole. The refrain of "East Coast" was unnerving.

One Saturday, after touring the city, I went to the Naschmarkt. The air carried many inviting scents—Austrian sausages on the grill, and Chinese stir-fry, the fruity tang of olives pickling in open tubs, Turkish döner rotating on a vertical skewer. So many aromas, most of which Mr. Haider would wish away. I accidentally bumped into Mayor Häupl, who was campaigning there. A few of the TV cameras turned to film me, and I did my best to disappear without seeming to pull a trench coat across my face. I was determined to avoid becoming a TV image two weeks before the election.

The notion entered my mind of other Jews hiding, seeking anonymity, in an earlier age. But I soon realized I was in a different time. I have been given the chance—denied my relatives in Eastern Europe, decades ago—to fight. With polls and focus groups, I helped develop issues and themes to deny Mr. Haider what he thrives on, namely voters frustrated and alienated and looking for foreigners to blame. The Social Democrats made a new effort to harness social changes that many Austrians find frightening—by encouraging high-technology employment, investing more in schools and public transport and enhancing retirement security.

I also came to realize that I was not alone in Austria. Mr. Haider closed his campaign with a flurry of neighborhood rallies continuing the refrain about the "East Coast." The Social Democrats finished with a rally of some 2000 supporters jammed into the Museumsquartier, the Hapsburgs' former stables. Mayor Häupl concluded his last campaign address with a warning about Mr. Haider: "His attacks against the East Coast and against our consultant Greenberg, against the president of the Jewish community" make him "personally responsible" for "anti-Semitism." "This policy is against all of us," Mayor Häupl said.

On Sunday Vienna voters made their choices. Mr. Haider's Freedom Party lost almost one-third of its support, plummeting